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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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This release is available electronically on INN (News Net.)

May 14, 1999

**Contact:** UM President George Dennison, (406) 243-2311; Karl Ulrich, vice chancellor for academic and student affairs at WMC, (406) 683-7151.

### **UM'S WESTERN MONTANA COLLEGE NAMES NEW CHANCELLOR**

**MISSOULA --**

A longtime higher education leader will take the helm of Western Montana College of The University of Montana, UM President George Dennison announced Friday.

Stephen Thompson Hulbert, commissioner of higher education and chief executive officer of the Rhode Island Board of Governors for Higher Education, will become WMC's chancellor July 1. He replaces Sheila Stearns, who resigned to become president of Wayne State College in Nebraska, also effective on July 1.

At WMC Hulbert will be responsible for a \$14 million annual budget and student enrollment of about 1,000.

Hulbert brings more than 30 years of experience as a higher education administrator, which Dennison said will benefit the Dillon campus and community.

"Steve Hulbert has the background and experience to provide excellent leadership for the college as it moves to the next stage of its development," Dennison said. "The search committee performed admirably in identifying great candidates for the position. As a result, it

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was a difficult but welcome task to make the final selection. I have great confidence that the college and the community will benefit from Hulbert's dedication, commitment and skill as an administrator."

"Western Montana College is very fortunate to have located a new chancellor with such a wealth of successful experience as a higher education administrator," said Karl Ulrich, WMC vice chancellor for academic and student affairs. "The Western campus has been moving forward in a number of areas including the development of popular new liberal arts degrees that take advantage of our setting to provide rich educational experiences for our students.

"We continue to have excellent teacher education programs with very high placement of our graduates," Ulrich continued. "With our newly approved technology center, our totally renovated residence halls and food service, and classroom improvements, our campus is primed for a new period of prosperity under the leadership of Dr. Hulbert."

Hulbert has led the Rhode Island Office of Higher Education as commissioner and CEO since 1996. That system consists of the seven campuses of the Community College of Rhode Island, Rhode Island College and the University of Rhode Island. Those schools have enrollments totaling more than 37,000 and an annual budget of about \$500 million collectively.

Before assuming his Rhode Island position, Hulbert held several positions at the University of Northern Colorado in Greeley for eight years. He served as UNC's provost and vice president for academic affairs during 1994-96, senior vice president during 1992-94, interim president during July-December 1991, and vice president for administrative services and treasurer of the board of trustees during 1988-91.



Hulbert was vice president for finance and administration at Slippery Rock University in Slippery Rock, Pa., from 1977 to 1988; executive assistant to the president of Mansfield University in Mansfield, Pa., from 1972 to 1977; and director of student activities and residence life, Western New England College in Springfield, Mass., from 1968 to 1970.

His professional and public service experience includes stints as a member of Rhode Island Children's Cabinet, the Rhode Island Juvenile Justice Oversight Commission and the Rhode Island Children's Crusade for Higher Education Board of Directors. He is a member of the American Association for Higher Education, State Higher Education Executive Officers and National Association of System Heads.

Hulbert earned a master's degree in counseling and student personnel services from the University of Massachusetts in Amherst and a doctorate in educational administration-higher education administration from State University of New York at Albany.

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